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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/504,939	02/16/2000	Christopher R. Stephens	ADT0001-US	6632

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EXAMINER

FELTEN, DANIEL S

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3624

DATE MAILED: 08/10/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

1. Restriction to one of the following inventions is required under 35 U.S.C. 121:
 - I. Claims 1-23, drawn to a system and method for leasing artificial agents, classified in class 705 subclass 80
 - II. Claims 24,39 and 46-61, drawn to a consulting system method for artificial agents classified in class 705, subclass 37.
 - III. Claims 40-45 and 62-66, drawn to methods of creating artificial agents, classified in class 706 subclass 45

The inventions are distinct, each from the other because of the following reasons:

Inventions Group I and Group II are related as combination and subcombination. Inventions in this relationship are distinct if it can be shown that (1) the combination as claimed does not require the particulars of the subcombination as claimed for patentability, and (2) that the subcombination has utility by itself or in other combinations (MPEP § 806.05(c)). In the instant case, the combination as claimed does not require the particulars of the subcombination as claimed because the subcombination among other things, an agent factory. The subcombination has a separate utility for displaying recommendations.

2. Inventions Group I and Group III are related as combination and subcombination. Inventions in this relationship are distinct if it can be shown that (1) the combination as

Art Unit: 3624

claimed does not require the particulars of the subcombination as claimed for patentability, and (2) that the subcombination has utility by itself or in other combinations (MPEP § 806.05(c)). In the instant case, the combination as claimed does not require the particulars of the subcombination as claimed because the combination does not require the particulars of the subcombination which requires testing the effectiveness of different trading rules on a window of historical data, selecting a subset of different technical trading, etc. The subcombination has separate utility such as it can be used in different systems not related to leasing.

3. Inventions Group II and Group III are related as combination and subcombination. Inventions in this relationship are distinct if it can be shown that (1) the combination as claimed does not require the particulars of the subcombination as claimed for patentability, and (2) that the subcombination has utility by itself or in other combinations (MPEP § 806.05(c)). In the instant case, the combination as claimed does not require the particulars of the subcombination as claimed because the combination does not require the particulars of the subcombination which requires testing the effectiveness of different trading rules on a window of historical data, selecting a subset of different technical trading, etc. The subcombination has separate utility such as it can be used in different system not related to consulting.

Art Unit: 3624

4. Because these inventions are distinct for the reasons given above and the search required for Group I is not required for Group II, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.

5. Because these inventions are distinct for the reasons given above and have acquired a separate status in the art as shown by their different classification, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Daniel S Felten whose telephone number is (703) 305-0724. The examiner can normally be reached on Flex.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Vincent Millin can be reached on (703) 308-1065. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



DSF



Daniel S Felten
Examiner
Art Unit 3624

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